

What is claimed is:

1. A loading apparatus for a vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a first frame;
- b) a second frame having a chain mounted thereupon; and

A 5 ~~cb~~ a locking system mounted on the first frame, the system having a drive wheel, a first arm member and a second arm member, the system being configured such that

- i) in a generally closed position, the chain engages the drive wheel in a first position, the drive wheel being connected to the arms; the arms being urged into the closed position; and
- 10 ii) in a generally open position, the chain engages the drive wheel in a second position, the arms being urged into the open position by the second frame.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

- 15 a) a third arm member,
- b) a stationary support member fixably mounted on the drive wheel, the support member having a first end portion and a second end portion, and
- c) a compressing member mounted on the support, the compressing member being attached to the arms, the arms being urged towards each other in the
- 20 closed position
- d) wherein the first arm member and the second arm member interlock with each other in the closed position.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2 in which:

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- a) the first arm member has a projection extending outwardly therefrom, the arm member having a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion being urged towards the chain, the second end portion being pivotally attached to the first end portion of the support;
 - b) the second arm member has a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion being urged towards the chain, the second end portion being pivotally attached to the second end portion of the support member; and
 - 10 c) the third arm member has a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion, the second end portion being pivotally attached to the second end portion of the support member.

4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 in which:

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- a) the third arm member has a groove disposed therein, the groove being shaped to cooperate with the projection on the first arm member.

5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which the first frame further comprises:

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- a) a front end portion and a rear end portion, the frame being mounted on a vehicle chassis;
 - b) a prime mover mounted on the chassis; and
 - c) an axle connected to the drive wheel to alternatively move the drive wheel in a first and a second direction

A 68. A loading frame comprising:

- a) the first frame as claimed in claim 5;
- b) an actuator; and

- c) an elevatable support to receive a load from the second frame and connected to the actuator.

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7.8. The loading frame as claimed in claim 5 further including:

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- a) a guide system having a central rail shaped to cooperate with the second frame.

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8. The loading frame as claimed in claim 6 in which:

- a) the rail has a slidably resilient material fixably mounted thereupon.

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The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which the second frame further comprises:

- a) a plurality of wheels such that the second frame is movable relative to the first frame;

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- b) a first rail, a second rail and a central rail, the central rail being shaped so as to cooperate with the central rail on the first frame

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10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which:

- a) the second frame has a front end portion and a rear end portion, the front end portion being disposed towards the rear end portion of first frame.

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